



THE TRUTH ABOUT THE HOLY GHOST

INTRODUCTION:

"God is Spirit" (John 4:24 NLT). The Spirit of God is often referred to as the Holy Ghost or Holy Spirit. It was the Spirit of God that created the world and everything in the world. This same Holy Spirit caused Mary to become the mother of Jesus. The Holy Spirit in Jesus is what made Him God and raised Him from the dead.

God's Spirit wants to live in everybody. He wants to make you His house (I Corinthians 6:19 NLT). This is what takes place when you receive the Holy Spirit. The Spirit of Christ comes to live in you.

WHO CAN RECEIVE THE HOLY SPIRIT?

It is promised to all people everywhere (Acts 2:39 NLT). All you have to do is repent, be baptized in Jesus' name, and ask God for It (Acts 2:38, Luke 11:13 NLT). It is God's desire to give the Holy

Spirit to you. Ask Him, trusting Him to do it, and He will.

In the Old Testament, God told men that in the last days He would send His Spirit on all men (Joel 2:28). John the Baptist said that Jesus would be the One to baptize with the Holy Spirit (Matthew 3:11). Jesus explained to His followers that He had to leave them but that He would return to them in the form of the Holy Spirit (John 14). "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to Me and drink. The Holy Writings say that rivers of living water will flow from the heart of the one who puts his trust in Me. Jesus said this about the Holy Spirit Who would come to those who put their trust in Him. The Holy Spirit had not yet been given. Jesus had not yet been raised to the place of honor" (John 7:37-39 NLT).

Ten days after Jesus left the earth to return to heaven, He did what He had promised. One hundred and twenty of His followers were waiting in Jerusalem. "All at once there was a sound from heaven like a powerful wind. It filled the house where they were sitting. Then they saw tongues which were divided that looked like fire. These came down on each of them. They were all filled with the Holy Spirit" (Acts 2:2-4 NLT). Many people came to see what was happening. Peter explained to them they also could receive the Holy Spirit. Three thousand more obeyed and received it that day.

Philip preached to the Samaritans and they received the Holy Ghost (Acts 8). Peter preached to the Gentiles and they also received It (Acts 10). Soon there were many thousands of people who were putting their faith in God and receiving the Holy Spirit. Thousands and even millions are still receiving the Holy Spirit today.

"Did you receive the Holy Spirit when you put your trust in Christ?" Paul asked that question to some followers in Ephesus (Acts 10). You need to ask that to yourself. You must receive the Holy Spirit to belong to Jesus Christ. "No one belongs to Christ if he does not have Christ's Spirit in him" (Romans 8:9 NLT).

HOW DO YOU KNOW THAT YOU HAVE RECEIVED THE HOLY SPIRIT?

You will speak in a new language which the Holy Spirit gives you when you receive the Holy Spirit. The first time the Holy Spirit was given in Acts 2:4 (NLT) the Bible says, "Then they began to speak in other languages which the Holy Spirit made them able to speak."

God spoke through Isaiah in the Old Testament saying this would happen, "Very well then, with foreign lips and strange tongues God will speak to this people" (Isaiah 28:11 NIV). Jesus said that people who put their trust in Him would speak with languages they had never learned (Mark 16:17).

Peter knew that the Gentiles had received the Holy Spirit at Cornelius' house because he "heard them speak in special sounds" (Acts 10:46 NLT). In Acts 19:6 NLT, "When Paul laid his hand on them, the Holy Spirit came on them. They started to talk in special sounds and to speak God's Word." This is talking about the followers at Ephesus. God's people still speak in new tongues when they receive the Holy Spirit.

CONCLUSION:

Jesus told Nicodemus, "For sure, I tell you, unless a man is born of water and of the Spirit of God, he cannot get into the holy nation of God" (John 3:5 NLT). To be denied entrance into the holy nation of God.

God wants you to enter His holy nation. If you will repent, be baptized in Jesus' name, and receive the gift of the Holy Spirit, you will be able to get into the holy nation. Therefore, you will enter a life of joy and peace that will last forever.